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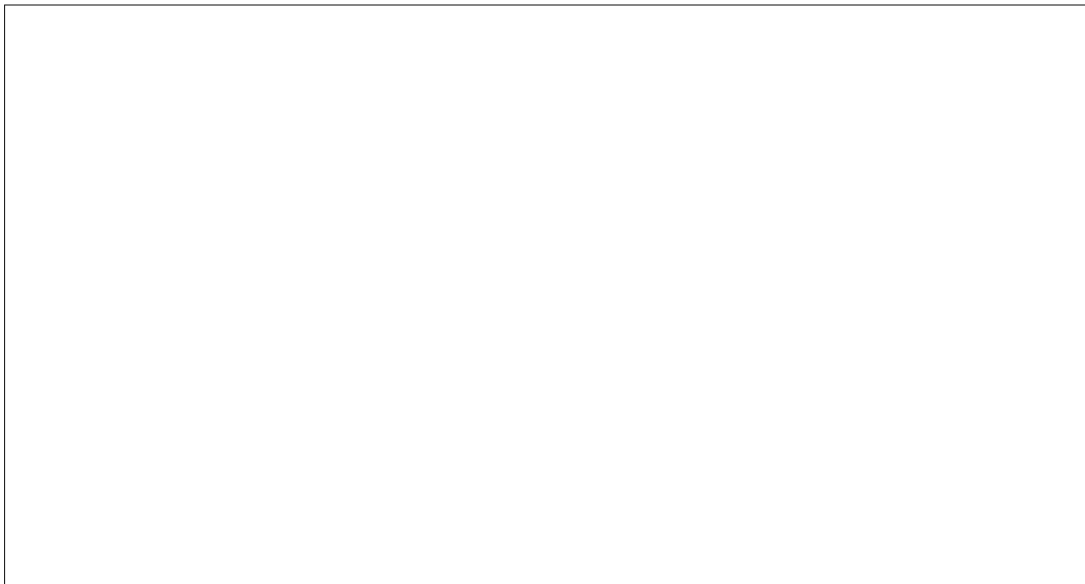
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④ WEST GERMANY - US: Concerns About Defense Cooperation

West German officials have reacted strongly to recent US legislation that limits trade in metals used in weapon production and withholds funds for the bilateral wartime host nation support agreement with Bonn. [redacted]

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A Defense Ministry official has warned that the legislation on "specialty metals" could lead to a re-examination of West German arms cooperation with the US. According to the press, there also is concern in the Defense Ministry that such protectionist measures could undermine recent NATO decisions to develop jointly new conventional weapons to combat Warsaw Pact second-echelon forces. [redacted]

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West German press commentaries suggest that the failure of the US to appropriate funds for implementing the wartime support agreement contributes to a growing estrangement between Washington and its West European allies. Bundestag deputies reportedly intend to respond by blocking West German support funds already earmarked for 1983. [redacted]

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Comment: Bonn's growing frustration with protectionist measures will dim prospects for West German consideration of a US-manufactured antitank helicopter. It also will increase the political pressure to "buy European." [redacted]

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The West Germans regard the support agreement as a major contribution and a symbol of their willingness to bear a fair share of Alliance defense burdens. A senior West German military official recently told the US defense attache that failure to provide funding would raise doubts about the reliability of the US and undercut Woerner's defense programs. [redacted]

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